

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PORT A 03749 082130Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /071 W
-----036603 082136Z /23

O 082024Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9544
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAPAZ IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY QIATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PORT AU PRINCE 3749

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, NU, VE
SUBJ: REQUEST FROM VENEZUELA FOR MFM ON NICARAGUE

REF: A. STATE 227780, B. STATE 227319

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS WHO SAID GOH DOES NOT
SUPPORT VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE, BUT THEY WILL ABSTAIN IF THERE
IS A VOTE ON SUBSTANCE. GOH WILL SUPPORT ONE WEEK POSTPONE-
MENT.

2. BRUTUS SAID GOH POSITION ON NICARAGUA IS THAT IT IS PURELY
AN INTERNAL MATTER AND THERE SHOULD BE NO OAS INVOLVEMENT.
HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF THERE IS OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT

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IT SHOULD BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN
REGION. BRUTUS SAID THAT ANY ACTION BY THE OAS WOULD
SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT OF INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS WHICH HAITI COULD NOT SUPPORT. HE CONTINUED THAT
HAITI, AS SMALL COUNTRY, FIRMLY STANDS BEHIND THE PRINCIPLE
OF NON-INTERVENTION. HE VIEWS THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION AS AN
INTERNAL MATTER AND CONSIDERS VENEZUELA'S INITIATIVE AS UNWISE

AND UNACCEPTABLE MEDDLING.

3. BRUTUS CONTINUED THAT HE FELT THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF THE US HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRESENT INSTABILITY IN NICARAGUA AND THAT WE WERE NOW PRESENTED WITH A DANGEROUS SITUATION WHERE THE EXTREME LEFT, OF THE CASTRO PERSUASION, COULD GAIN GROUND. HE SAID HAITI WAS OPPOSED TO ANY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN MARXIST ELEMENTS. BRUTUS CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT MANY LATIN AMERICAN STATES LOOK UPON VENEZUELA'S ACTIONS AS HAVING BEEN PROMPTED BY THE US AND THAT THE US WOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE IF THE SITUATION CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE IN NICARAGUA. HE URGED THAT THE US TAKE A CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION AND NOT DO ANYTHING WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THE LEFTIST.

4. I ASKED IF VENEZUELA HAD MADE ANY DEMARCHE FOR SUPPORT OF THEIR INITIATIVE AND BRUTUS SAID NOT AS YET. HE ADDED THAT HAITI HAS NO DIRECT RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA AS THERE IS NO RESIDENT NICARAGUAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN PORT AU PRINCE.

5. CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSION, I INDICATED TO BRUTUS THAT THE US, IN PRINCIPLE, SUPPORTED THE VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR MFM UNDER ARTICLE 59. BRUTUS REPEATED HIS OPPOSITION AND SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW THE MATTER SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE AMBASSADORIAL AND NOT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. HE SAID THAT PURSUING THE
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NICARAGUAN PROBLEM AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL COULD ONLY FURTHER DIVIDE THE OAS AND WEAKEN ITS STRUCTURE.

6. COMMENT: BRUTUS WAS ADAMANT IN HIS OPINIONS AND FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT WHAT HAITI REGARDS AS INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. GIVEN HAITIAN HISTORY AND THE NATURE OF THE PRESENT REGIME, THIS IS NOT SURPRISING. HOWEVER, BRUTUS DOES NOT WANT TO DIRECTLY OPPOSE THE US AND, AS HE INDICATED, WOULD LIKELY ABSTAIN IN ANY VOTING. SINCE HE IS OPPOSED TO THE WHOLE EFFORT, BRUTUS WELCOMES THE IDEA OF A POSTPONEMENT. IT IS PROBABLY THAT IN ANY DEBATE THE HAITIANS WOULD REMAIN SILENT AND CONFINE THEIR CONVERSATIONS TO THE CORRIDORS. NEVERTHELESS, BRUTUS IS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT BEING INCLUDED IN DISCUSSIONS AND HIS SILENCE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS LACK OF INTEREST. HE WOULD EXPECT GOH TO BE CONSULTED DURING ANY CORRIDOR DELIBERATIONS AND WE WOULD URGE THAT THIS BE DONE.
JONES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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